

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

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FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9637

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 1115

AMEMBASSY LISBON

C O N F I D E N T I A L EC BRUSSELS 08669

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EEC, EAID, PO, IT

SUBJECT: AID TO PORTUGAL

REF STATE 228779

1. WE INFORMED DE KERGORLAY, DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR EXTERNAL RELATIONS IN THE EC COMMISSION, THAT US IS PREPARING AID PACKAGE FOR PORTUGAL AND OF OUR DESIRE FOR AN EARLY EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON ASSISTANCE WITH THE EC ALONG THE LINES OF PARAGRAPH 3 REFTEL. WE ALSO INFORMED HIM THAT A PARALLEL APPROACH WAS BEING MADE BY OUR EMBASSY IN ROME TO THE ITALIANS IN THEIR CAPACITY AS EC PRESIDENT.

2. DE KERGORLAY SAID THAT HIS PERSONAL REACTION WAS THAT THE PROPOSED EXCHANGE WAS A "GOOD IDEA" AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE EC COMMISSION'S VIEW THAT EC AID TO PORTUGAL SHOULD BE COORDINATED WITH ASSISTANCE OFFERED FROM OTHER SOURCES. HE SAID HE WOULD REPORT OUR PROPOSAL TO HIS SUPERIORS IN THE COMMISSION AND HE IMAGINED THAT THE ITALIANS WOULD SIMILARLY COMMUNICATE OUR OFFER TO THE COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES IN BRUSSELS.

3. ASKED ABOUT THE STATUS OF THE EC'S PROGRAM FOR
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ASSISTANCE TO PORTUGAL, DE KERGORLAY STATED THAT PUR-

SUANT TO A FAVORABLE READING BY THE EC NINE POLITICAL DIRECTORS MEETING IN NEW YORK CITY THIS WEEK, THE COREPER HAD AFFIRMED IN ITS MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 25 THAT THE NEW PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT MET THE EC'S "PLURALIST DEMOCRACY" CONDITION FOR THE EXTENSION OF AID. MEANWHILE, HE POINTED OUT, TECHNICAL PREPARATION OF THE EC AID OFFER IS CONTINUING, WITH A MEETING OF THE COMMISSION'S EXPERTS GROUP SET FOR MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, TO BE FOLLOWED BY A COREPER MEETING ON EITHER SEPTEMBER 30 OR OCTOBER 1. DE KERGORLAY HAD NOTHING NEW TO OFFER ON DETAILS WHICH HE SAID WERE STILL BEING HAMMERED OUT, BUT HE THOUGHT IT LIKELY THAT THE SUBMISSION TO THE OCTOBER 6-7 FOREIGN MINISTERS COUNCIL MEETING WOULD TAKE THE FORM OF AN "OPTIONS" PAPER. ALTHOUGH HESITATING TO PREDICT WHAT THE PRICE TAG WOULD BE ON THE EC'S "EMERGENCY" ASSISTANCE OFFER FOR PORTUGAL, DE KERGORLAY SAID HE THOUGHT THAT THE COMMUNITY WOULD COME FORTH WITH A "SUBSTANTIAL PACKAGE".GREENWALD

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